

**SENATE—Wednesday, February 14, 2001**

The Senate met at 10:00 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

O God, here we are decked out with red ties, blouses, and dresses, ready to celebrate Valentine's Day. Thank You for those we love—our spouses and families, our friends, and those with whom we work. You are the artesian well of true love. Good thing, Father, for we also need love for those we find it hard to like!

May this be a day in which Your love is expressed in our words, attitudes, and actions. Particularly, we need Your help to express affirmation to those who need assurance, encouragement to those who have heavy personal burdens to carry, and hope to those with physical pain. Our prayer for each of these is not to remind You of what You already know, but to place ourselves at Your disposal to be messengers of Your love in practical ways and in heartfelt words. May this be a "say it" and "do it now" kind of day. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE**

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, February 14, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. CHAFEE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

**MORNING BUSINESS**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to exceed the hour of 2 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the time until 10:40 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Wyoming or his designee.

**RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming, the acting majority leader, is recognized.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. THOMAS. Today, the Senate will be in a period of morning business throughout the morning until 2 o'clock. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 320 regarding copyright and patent laws. By previous consent, there will be up to 1 hour of debate on the bill, with the vote on passage expected to occur at approximately 3 p.m. There may be some slippage of time there. Some Members may be returning, I believe, from West Virginia. It could be 3:15.

The Senate could also consider the Paul Coverdell Peace Corps bill and the small business advocacy bill during this week's session, as well as any executive nominations that are available. I yield the floor.

(The remarks of Mr. THOMAS pertaining to the introduction of S. 322 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**TAX RELIEF**

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I understand my colleague from Wyoming was talking today about the President's proposal on tax relief. I have been watching a little bit of the debate on the floor of the Senate. I have to say, this debate is somewhat disturbing.

We have been discussing taking some of the money people have worked hard to earn and have sent here to Washington—and we have a surplus of money coming here now; we have a tax surplus for which people have worked hard, they have earned it, they have sent it to Washington, and we have enough money to pay for all the bills we have right now—and now we are talking about how can we take some of this money that people worked hard to earn and return it to them.

In the discussion and debate we hear some saying that people who are paying less in taxes are going to get less money back in real dollars than people who pay a lot more in taxes are going to get back and that somehow is unfair. For example, if somebody who pays \$200 in income taxes is going to get tax relief of \$200—in other words, many people under the proposal being put forward are going to simply have all of their tax liability eliminated. If they are paying \$200 in taxes and they are going to get \$200 in tax relief while someone who pays \$300,000 in taxes is going to get \$30,000 in tax relief, somehow or another that is unfair; it is unfair that this one person who is a hard-working person is only going to get \$200 under this proposal and some fat cat is going to get \$30,000, and that is unfair.

So we see pictures: Here is what the fat cat is going to get, here is what the poor working person is going to get, and that is not fair. Except for the fact, if you step back and say, wait a minute, how much is this person who is paying a lot of taxes—how much are they paying and what is their relief versus what someone who has a lower income is paying and what is their relief? If we were going to balance this according to fairness as described by some, then there should be equal tax relief, even though there is not equal payment of taxes.

When a surplus is created because people have overpaid taxes and we want to relieve the tax burden on those who have overpaid, then I think fairness dictates we give tax relief to everybody who has contributed to the overpayment somewhat in proportion to what they have overpaid. That, to me, would be fair.

What would be unfair is for someone who pays \$200 in taxes to get \$20,000 in tax relief as opposed to someone who pays \$300,000 in taxes to get \$300 in tax relief. Some would suggest that is fair. I suggest that is typical Washington wealth redistribution because we know who the more deserving are here in Washington.